

Coal Oil Johnny's Luck.

A letter from Harrisburg, Pa., says: William McNulty, better known as Johnny Steele or "Coal Oil Johnny," who made a large fortune during the oil fever, and squandered it almost as fast as he made it, turns up in this city on the fourth. He said that he had come to the capital to celebrate, and that he was at present working in McCormick's mills in New Cumberland. He pulled out a bundle of papers from his pocket and handing one of them to an auditor said it was a claim to the Continental Hotel in Philadelphia, for which he had paid \$400,000 in his wealthy days. He asserted that the hotel would again come into his possession. The paper reads right enough, and bears the marks of age about it. He further said that he was prospecting in New Cumberland, sinking shafts for copper and iron. He showed some ores which he said came from the shafts in which he was experimenting. He expressed his confidence that he would become as wealthy as Vanderbilt yet.

Being asked where his family was, he said that they were in Waymart, and added that he had recently sent them \$25,000. He had been up in Williamsport, he said, about six months ago, and happened to be at Crawford House. Some body was talking about a package containing \$25,000, "left there by a fellow named 'Coal Oil Johnny,' about 65 or 70," to remain there until called for. He went to the bank and succeeded, after some difficulty, in establishing his identity. In obtaining the money, "Coal Oil Johnny" is still quite attractive in appearance. His face is pleasant and genial and well browned by the sun and weather. His eyes are blue, and he wears side-whiskers in the English fashion. His clothes are old-fashioned and much too heavy for the weather. Bundles of papers hang loosely out of his pockets. He is now about 30 years of age and possesses considerable intelligence, being able to write his name legibly, a fact he could not perform in the days of his prosperity. He is hunting for evidence to get back some of the money which was illegally taken from him.

When the oil fever broke out in Northern Pennsylvania, about twenty-two years ago, McNulty owned twenty acres of land in Venango county, which he had cleared for himself. Strangers came one day and began to prospect around the neighborhood. What was ordinary in appearance to him was very extraordinary to them. The peculiar look of the water was a familiar thing to him. He had seen the sight often and did not mind it. The strangers it was hidden treasure. The more they looked over the farm the more they wanted it. This led to negotiations, and McNulty woke up one morning to find himself the possessor of \$5,000,000. His farm of twenty acres comprised the heart of the newly discovered oil field, and from that time forth he became known as "Coal Oil Johnny."

This turned his head. His reckless extravagance was a matter of history. He scattered money around wherever he went. He purchased the Continental hotel, Philadelphia, furnished a colored band with gorgeous suits and sold silver instruments, bought elegant turnouts at a fabulous price, used them for a single ride, and then gave them away. He traveled from city to city, and wherever he went was followed by a cloud of sharpers, who fleeced him of his wealth. Enormous as his fortune was it could not stand these drains made on it, and when it had disappeared "Coal Oil Johnny" went to work to retrieve his fallen fortunes in a manly way. The story of the past fifteen years, from the time when he took a situation with John Sherry's New York theater at \$6 per week salary to the present time, is a story of genuine American pluck and perseverance; and his friends, and he has many proved and tried four-wheel friends will be glad to know that he is once more on the road to prosperity.

Barrett and the Petaluma Delegation.
(San Francisco Post.)
The other evening, during Lawrence Barrett's performance in Francesca de Rimini at the California, just as the tragedian was tearing a passion to very tatters in one of the stormiest scenes of the play, a lazy looking stranger arose from his seat in one of the stage boxes, and leaning forward with a wooden tray in his hand, said: "Mister Barrett, I'm p'inted by a committee of yer Petaluma friends to present yer with this box of the biggest strawberries ever raised on this coast."

The thunderstruck actor gazed at the speaker for a moment in dead silence; then with a terrific kick that scattered the strawberries equally over the house, he continued:

"D-n you and your strawberries," and the curtain came down with a rush, and the tornado of laughter that followed.

It required five ushers to remove the infuriated delegate from the milk country from the theatre. At 2 o'clock this morning he was still watching the stage door, armed with a club, although Mr. Barrett had long before been carried round to his hotel concealed in the big drum.

You Are a liar.
(Boston Herald.)
Uncle Hank Allen was perhaps the smoothest and most accomplished liar in Central New York. Why, the old man's lies were so smooth, so artistic, that while listening to them you imagined you were listening to Elder Cleveland's Bible stories. One day we were talking about potato-bugs in Uncle Hank's grocery, which was a sort of village farmers' club. Old Hank scratched his head thoughtfully and remarked:

"Gentlemen, you don't any of you appear to know anything about the ravenous nature of these potato bugs. You may call me a liar, but I've had potato bugs walk right into my kitchen and yank red-hot potatoes right out of the oven. Waiting around the potato patch for these crop?"

exclaimed Old Hank, with a sneer. "Waiting? Why not? I've waited a day, and I saw potato bugs there looking over Townsend's books to see who had bought seed potatoes for next year. I did, by gosh!"

The whole grocery was still when Uncle Hank finished. You could have heard a pin drop. Finally a long lean man from Woodman's Pond raised himself up near the door. He was evidently a new-comer and not acquainted with Mr. Allen. Pointing his long finger at Uncle Hank, he exclaimed:

"You are a liar!"

Uncle Hank looked over his glasses at the stranger long and earnestly. Then holding out his hand he inquired, with a puzzled look:

"When did you get acquainted with me?"

The Dorsey Correspondence.

(Washington Special to Philadelphia Times.)
A gentleman who has just returned from New York says Ex-Senator Dorsey has concluded not to give out for publication the private correspondence relative to the Garfield and Arthur campaign, as he threatened to do at the end of the recent star route trial. He saw Dorsey and talked with him on the subject and was shown some of the letters and telegrams which passed between Dorsey and Garfield during the campaign. It was thought best, this gentleman says, not to print what would only tend to smirch Garfield in the public estimation.

"There is no doubt in my mind," he continued, "but that Dorsey and Brady would never have been indicted had Garfield lived. With this correspondence in their possession they were solid with Garfield. This is what they have claimed, and that is what can alone be deduced from the evidence in Dorsey's possession. On the contrary, Dorsey held the whip-hand, and would have compelled Garfield to have driven both McVeagh and James out of the cabinet. That Dorsey would have done this both James and McVeagh very well knew, for Dorsey had already shown his hand before Garfield was shot. For this reason they were uncompromising in their pursuit of Dorsey. What Dorsey and Brady had done for Garfield was of no account as against Arthur, although he was indirectly benefited as much as Garfield. They are very sore against Arthur, but this publication would scarcely help them against him. His hands are clean of the Garfield campaign fund."

"This correspondence, then, relates to the last campaign."
"Mostly; though there are more important documents originating since the campaign and having direct reference to the star route cases. There is no question in my mind now but that Garfield felt that he owed his election to the star routers."

"That is, the party got the benefit of the star route stealings?"
"The party realized largely on the profits of the star route contracts, whether they were stealings or not. That is what I mean. And, to be equally plain in other respects, Garfield's gratitude and promises would have protected Dorsey and Brady from indictment where Arthur's ingratitude pursued them with the whole machinery of the government."

"That is a compliment to Arthur, isn't it?"
"Well, you may think so, but Arthur is living off of the mittens. With McVeagh and James out of the Garfield cabinet there would have been no star route prosecutions. That is certain. With Garfield's successor there could be no bargain. He has not been vindictive, but has simply permitted the men who made him to be mercilessly slaughtered, while he enjoys the fruits of their generosity of crime."

Good Story on Joe Blackburn.
(Washington Special to the Commercial Gazette.)

Mr. Ramsdell tells the following story on Representative Blackburn: I saw Congressman Joe Blackburn yesterday, and asked him about the paragraph that is on its rounds about his summer wardrobe that his daughter is said to have sent him. He laughed and said it had a grain of truth in it. He said he left home for a day or two only, and took only a small bag with him. The consolidation of internal revenue districts brought him unexpectedly to Washington. He at once telegraphed home to have a trunk of clothes sent to him here. His little daughter in the absence of her mother, showed him dispatch, and thought it was her duty to obey it. So she packed a trunk and put a note in it as follows:

"Dear Papa—I send you all the clothes I can find, and hope you are well."

Mr. Blackburn said that the trunk contained the following: Seven white shirts, six winter scarfs, one tooth brush, one Bowie knife and two revolvers. This is what Kentucky girl regards as a suitable summer wardrobe for a gentleman.

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